



Governor Brian Schweitzer

# Montana

## GOVERNOR'S STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

# SWIB UPDATE

DECEMBER 15, 2011

### A Look at House Resolution 226:

*The Adult Education & Economic Growth Act*

By Marcy Foster

Introduced in June of 2011 by Rep. Ruben Hinojsa (TX-15) House Resolution 2226, also known as The Adult Education and Economic Growth Act (AEEGA) would amend the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to encourage the use and availability of career pathways for low-skilled adults, strengthen the focus of adult education on postsecondary credentials, and modernize the adult education system to meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. By 2018, economists predict that 63 percent of jobs will require a postsecondary education,

yet, today only 55% of adults have at least some college education. The nation's ability to meet the demand for a higher skilled workforce depends on increasing the education levels of adults currently in the workforce. A growing wage gap between higher and lower educated workers also increases the urgency of helping workers access further education and training. To continue reading the report in full, click [here](#).

*House Resolution 2226 was referred to the House Subcommittee on Higher Education & Workforce Training on Sept. 8, 2011.*

### MEMBER NEWS

- The American Banker's Association's Center for Agricultural & Rural Banking has recognized Sector Strategies Chair **Mike Grove** as the recipient of 2011 Bruning Award, for his lifetime commitment to agricultural banking.

### Healthcare Workforce: Grant Makes Progress in Analysis

One of the most important functions of the workforce investment system in Montana is to anticipate the needs of employers and to prepare qualified workers for expected jobs. Recently, Montana has seen large growth in the health care industry. To analyze this growth and prepare the workforce, The Workforce Services Division, along with the Office of Rural Health at MSU Bozeman and the Montana Healthcare Advisory Council, have been working together through a grant funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The group has put together [The Healthcare Workforce Strategic Plan](#) which is available now online through the MT Office of Rural Health/AHEC website.

### 2011-2013 STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD WIA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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State Legislator

### WORKFORCE NEWS

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- Learn more about the **energy sector** in Eastern Montana, and it's workforce! Read, "[Drilling for Workers: A Workforce Assessment of the Energy Industry in Eastern Montana's WIRED region.](#)" compiled by DLI's Research & Analysis Bureau.
- Check out the [National Association of Workforce Boards](#) for the latest information on workforce initiatives.



### UPCOMING MEETINGS,

#### HELENA, MT:

- Life Long Learning, 1/11/12, 1 p.m., Capitol Building, Room # 137.
- Sector Strategies 1/11/12, 1 p.m., Capitol Building, Room # 405.
- SWIB, January 12, 2012. Capitol Building, 8 a.m. Room #317.

### Big Sky High School Blazes Trail for Career Academies

Missoula's Big Sky High School will open a Health Science Career Academy next fall, launching a sea of reforms in the Missoula County Public School district over the next few years, the goal of which is to invigorate students while getting them ready to graduate career and college ready. The district is intent on establishing multiple career academies in coming years, covering a range of as-yet-to-be determined disciplines. The Health Science Academy will consist of 100 eighth graders under the tutelage of 6 core teachers who will teach math, science, history and social studies from a cross-disciplinary approach for the next four years. All of the classes and coursework will orbit around health sciences, and will include on-site job shadowing in hospitals, veterinary clinics, and health related businesses. The academy will make a strong connection between education and what is needed out in the employment sector. Big Sky Principal, Trevor Laboski, said MCPS deliberately chose the health sciences for its first academy because of Missoula's position as a regional hub for health care, and because it is a growth industry for jobs. *For the full text of this article, please see "[Montana's First Career Academy to Open At Big Sky](#)" by Jamie Kelly.*

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